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THE GREEN ISLES OF OCEAN*.

AIR—" *All ye Cambrian Youth.*"

I.

WHERE are they, those Green Fairy Islands †, reposing
 In sunlight and beauty on Ocean's calm breast?
 What spirit, the things which are hidden disclosing,
 Shall point the bright way to their dwellings of rest?
 'Oh! lovely they rose on the dreams of past ages,
 The mighty have sought them, undaunted in faith;
 But the land hath been sad for her warriors and sages,
 For the guide to those realms of the blessed is death!

II.

Where are they, the high-minded children of glory,
 Who steer'd for those distant green spots on the wave?
 To the winds of the ocean they left their wild story,
 In the fields of their country they found not a grave!
 Perchance they repose where the summer-breeze gathers,
 From the flowers of each vale, Immortality's breath;
 But their steps shall be ne'er on the hills of their fathers,
 For the guide to those realms of the blessed—is death!

Monthly Register.

CYMMRODORION.

IT will be seen by an advertisement accompanying this Number, that the ensuing anniversary of the Cymmrodorion is

* Extracted from Mr. Parry's second Volume of "Welsh Melodies:" the words are by Mrs. Hemans.—ED.

† The "Green Islands of the Ocean," or "Green Spots of the Floods," called in the Triads "*Gwerddonau Llion*" (respecting which some remarkable superstitions have been preserved in Wales), were supposed to be the abode of the *Fair Family*, or souls of the virtuous Druids, who could not enter the Christian Heaven, but were permitted to enjoy this Paradise of their own. GAVRAN, a distinguished British chieftain of the fifth century, went on a voyage, with his family, to discover these islands; but they were never heard of afterwards. This event, the voyage of Merddyn Emrys with his twelve bards, and the expedition of Madog, were called the Three Losses by Disappearance of the Isle of Britain. See the CAMBRIAN BIOGRAPHY; also CAMBRO-BRITON, vol. i. p. 124."

likely to be celebrated with much spirit, as well as with those national festivities which have ever been the pride of the Cymry. For the first time, then, it may be said, the inhabitants of the metropolis will be gratified with the exhibition of a Bardic Congress; and the novelty of the scene, united with the acknowledged attractions of Welsh music, cannot fail to impart to the occasion a particular degree of interest. The advertisement, to which we have alluded, furnishes an outline of the intended proceedings; but, as fuller particulars have also been circulated, we shall take advantage of them to enter a little more into the details. We, therefore, extract the following passage, which may be of interest to those who have not access to the bills to which we have alluded.

“The Anniversary Meeting of this Institution, formed for the promotion of Welsh literature, poetry, and music, will be held on Wednesday, the 22nd of May, 1822, at the Freemasons’ Tavern, commencing at twelve o’clock at noon, when a selection of vocal and instrumental national music will be performed: also singing with the Welsh harps after the manner of the ancient Britons. The Society’s medals will likewise be awarded to the successful candidates for the prize Poems and Essays. A newly-invented Pedal Harp, with two rows of strings and double action, will be introduced, with a variety of other interesting novelties, which will be expressed in future bills. The instrumental department to be under the direction of Mr. E. Jones, Bard to His Majesty, and the vocal under the superintendence of Mr. John Parry, Editor of “Welsh Melodies, &c.”

We intimated last month, that the Librarian of this Society was then preparing a catalogue of the MYVYRIAN MSS. recently purchased from the widow of the late Mr. Owen Jones. This task he has since accomplished, and, it is scarcely necessary to add, with the success that always attends his literary undertakings. The compilation, indeed, is rendered as interesting as a mere catalogue can be, and particularly so by some “General Remarks” that are prefixed to it. Such of these as relate more immediately to the nature of the MSS. we shall take the liberty of transcribing, notwithstanding that the whole catalogue will shortly be published in the “Transactions” of the Institution.

“With respect to the 100 volumes of MSS.” says Mr.

Pughe, "the contents of which are generally detailed in the following Catalogue, it was thought advisable, so far as circumstances would admit, to separate those, wherein the poetry was comprised, from those which comprehended the prose documents of every description, and so to assign a distinct catalogue for each department. Under the arrangement, thus marked out, the Poetry catalogue comprises 47 volumes of various magnitudes, and those form a total of about 16,000 pages, wherein, including frequent repetitions, there are about 4,700 pieces of poetry, with the addition of upwards of 2,000 *englynion* or epigrammatic stanzas. The 53 MS. volumes of Prose form about 15,300 pages, containing a great many curious documents upon various subjects; and, of course, these, like the Poetry, are repeated in several copies. The fair copy, on vellum, of the Laws of Hywel, No. VIII. in the Catalogue, may be considered the most valuable of any one book in the whole collection; and next to this may be placed No. III., the Extent of Anglesey, taken under the reign of Edward III."

From this enumeration Mr. Pughe proceeds to offer some observations on the most eligible mode of rendering these stores available to the literary world; and, with this view, he recommends the addition, at first, of four poetical volumes to the Archaeology. Three of these, he thinks, would comprise all the unpublished Poetry down to the year 1500, and the fourth volume, he proposes, should contain a selection of "what may be deemed worthy of preservation of the more humble productions of the subsequent period." With respect to the Prose MSS., he conceives, that, as they would require more time for arrangement and for collating them with other documents, not at present within reach of the Society, the mode of publishing them should form a subject of future consideration.

From the foregoing remarks it is evident, that a fair opportunity is now presented to the Welsh Societies to achieve, in a great degree at least, the patriotic object for which they were formed. And, as the funds of the Cymmrodorion are certainly, of themselves, inadequate to the purpose, we repeat the hope, we took occasion once before to express, that the hearty and liberal co-operation of the provincial institutions will enable them to complete this national work. It is impossible that a better opportunity for evincing their zeal in the cause should

occur; and *carpe diem* ought to be their motto on the occasion.

We have farther to add to this account of the Cymmrodorion, that their Second Report, under the title of "Transactions," will speedily make its appearance. It will comprise about ten or a dozen articles, some of them of considerable interest,—and will form a volume, about as large, we should think, as the Quarterly or Edinburgh Review. We hope to be able in our next to announce the time of its publication.

CAMBRIAN SOCIETY IN DYVED.

In a late Number* we recorded some Resolutions which had been recently adopted by the Committee of this Society, the most important of which related to the obtaining of information respecting MSS. and scarce works on Welsh literature and antiquities. Since that time, a circular letter, founded on the resolution, has been transmitted by the Secretary to the several members, and other persons, deemed either to possess or have knowledge of such MSS. or works, which, accordingly, as it evinces the laudable attention of the Committee in promoting a very important object of the Society, and contains information of no small general interest, we shall here transcribe, with the exception of such part only as relates to the private concerns of the Society, for the perusal of our readers.

"*Cardiff*, January 25th, 1822.

"SIR,—I am directed by the Committee of the Cambrian Society in Dyved, to request you to favour me with your answers to each of the annexed queries †, if possible, but more particularly to the two first relative to MSS. of Welsh Literature, and if such MSS. be in your possession, whether in Latin or Welsh, to transmit a catalogue of them to the Society, accompanied with such remarks on their subjects and supposed authors, as may be deemed useful with a view to publication. It was proposed at the Primary Meeting of this Society, as soon as its finances should be equal to the charge, to collect a complete catalogue of all Welsh MSS. to be found in the several libraries in the Principality, and in England, or on the continent, both public and private; and, now, since the establishment of the Metropolitan Cambrian Institution, and the Societies of Powys, Gwyn-

* See CAMBRO-BRITON, No. 26, p. 253.

† See id. vol. i. p. 73.